

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Rae Tramontano and Sharon Ferrucci,
New Haven

File No. 2007-375

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Complainants bring this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that three individuals who had previously registered to vote completed additional voter registration cards. While that is not an offense *per se*, the Complaint was docketed to review concerns regarding possible irregularities pertaining to the applications of these three individuals.

1. Complainants are the City of New Haven Republican and Democratic Registrars of Voters, respectively, and alleged that they received voter registration cards from Zenaida Barranco, Hoa-Khanh Maskell, and Yasmin Ramadan, who had previously registered to vote. This document pertains to the applications of Ms. Barranco and Ms. Maskell, while the disposition of this matter with respect to Ms. Ramadan's application is addressed in a separate document.
2. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stats. § 9-20b registrars of voters and the Office of the Secretary of the State provide voter registration services at United States citizenship ceremonies.
3. The New Haven Registrars of Voters administered the voter registration services at citizenship ceremonies in New Haven on September 21, 2007.
4. Zenaida Barranco and Hoa-Khanh "Kathy" Maskell attended the September 21, 2007 citizenship ceremonies in the City of New Haven as guests, and completed voter registration cards and submitted them to the Registrars of Voters at that time.
5. Connecticut General Statutes § 9-23h, provides in pertinent part:

The application provided for in section 9-23g shall provide spaces for the following information for each applicant: (1) Name, (2) bona fide residence, including street number, street address, apartment number if applicable, town and zip code, (3) telephone number, (4) date of birth, (5) *whether the applicant is registered as an elector in any other town in the state of Connecticut or in any other state, and if so, the applicant's last previous voting residence*, (6) whether the applicant is a United States citizen, (7) whether the applicant will be eighteen years of age on or before election day, (8) party affiliation, if any, (9) the applicant's signature and date of signature, and (10) the applicant's Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license number

or, if none, the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. The spaces for the applicant's telephone number and party affiliation shall indicate that such information does not have to be provided. ... The spaces regarding United States citizenship and whether the applicant will be eighteen years of age on or before election day shall indicate that if the applicant answers "No" to either question, the applicant may not complete the voter registration form. [Emphasis added.]

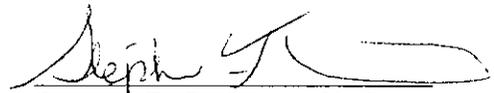
6. Ms. Barranco marked the box "New Voter Registration (includes move to new town)" on her September 21, 2007 voter registration application.
7. Ms. Barranco first registered to vote on July 29, 2003 at 308 Howard Avenue in New Haven, and subsequently changed her address via canvass to 87 Howe Street, New Haven. On September 21, 2007, she completed a voter registration application changing her address to 124 Crescent Street, New Haven. She maintains that at that time, she had forgotten that she had previously registered to vote.
8. The Commission investigation revealed that Ms. Barranco was born in Puerto Rico and does not speak English, yet, each of the voter registration applications described above and utilized by Ms. Barranco are all English language applications.
9. Ms. Barranco did not commit any statutory violation by checking the box for "New Voter Registration" as opposed to "Address Change." Further, because she moved only within the City of New Haven, she did not have to provide her last voting address, and the Complainants had access to her prior application and voting history. Accordingly, the allegation with respect to Ms. Barranco is dismissed.
10. Turning to Hoa-Khanh K. Maskell, she marked the box "Address change (within the same town)" on her September 21, 2007 voter registration application.
11. Ms. Maskell was born in San Diego, California as Hoa-Khanh Tran. She first registered to vote in New York, and became a Connecticut elector for the first time on or about October 19, 2004 in Wallingford. She was removed from the voter registry list in Wallingford on or about January 31, 2006, based upon information from the Department of Motor Vehicles that she had moved to New Haven.
12. Ms. Maskell disclosed her prior voting residence in Wallingford on her application for admission as an elector in New Haven, as required by § 9-23h, General Statutes. Although based upon the parentheticals underneath the box captions, she technically checked the wrong box, it does not rise to the level of a statutory violation. Accordingly, the allegation with respect to Ms. Haskell is dismissed.

ORDER

The following Order is issued on the basis of the aforementioned finding:

That the complaint is dismissed.

Adopted this 9th day of April of 2008 at Hartford, Connecticut



Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission